



Regular Meeting Agenda
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, June 1, 2005
Via Linda Senior Center
10400 E. Via Linda
5:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Donn Loper, Vice-chair Dean Cerimeli, Commissioners Shelley Anderson, Kemp Ellis, John Faramelli, and Ron King

Absent: Commissioner Stephen Owens

Staff Present: Jan Cameron, Leslie Clark, Reed Kempton, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Jay Osborn, Reed Pryor, Karen Rumore, and Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Loper called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Loper asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Faramelli asked the minutes be amended to reflect a correction from the Director of Parks & Grounds Management, William Murphy, on Page 3 Paragraph 2 line 7 which stated "there is about 3,000 hours of recreational use annually on Field 1" – the correct statement should be "1,400 hours of recreational use."

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2005 as amended. Commissioner Faramelli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

NORTHSIGHT PARK BIKE PATH RENOVATION/EXTENSION

Reed Kempton, Transportation Planner, updated the Commission on the proposed relocation and upgrade to the existing multi-use path at Northsight Park. The existing path will be repaved and extended to connect the north and south access roads.

Commissioner King noted he has ridden his bike at the park and this is really needed

Commissioner Anderson asked if the path was for bikes only. Mr. Kempton said it is a multi-use path. Commissioner Anderson asked if mixed uses cause any conflicts. Mr. Kempton said the entire existing path system accommodates multi-uses. Commissioner Anderson asked if a 10-foot width is wide enough. Mr. Kempton said that is the customary width and should be appropriate. The volume is not high enough at this location to justify a 12 to 14 foot path.

Chairperson Loper asked if the bollard will be on the Thunderbird side. Mr. Kempton said there would be removable bollards on both ends of the site. Chairperson Loper asked if there is a standard that 1 bollard at the entrance is enough. Mr. Kempton said there haven't been a lot of problems in the past with people driving on the path system. If there was a problem it would then become an enforcement issue.

Commissioner Anderson asked if this path is unacceptable for horses. Mr. Kempton said equestrian users don't usually like riding on a paved path. There are ordinances against the use of the paved path system by equestrians.

Vice-Chair Cerimeli asked about the existing dirt path outside the paved path. William Murphy, Director of Parks & Grounds Management, said it was to the west of the plan and goes to the north and around the perimeter. Vice-chair Cerimeli asked if bikes could use that dirt path. Mr. Kempton said road bike users don't customarily use dirt paths. Vice-chair Cerimeli asked how far the path was from the residences. Mr. Kempton said he didn't know and will get that information to the Commission.

UPDATE ON MESCAL PARK NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING – MAY 5, 2005

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, updated the Commission on the recent Mescal Park neighborhood meeting that was held on Thursday, May 5, 2005 to discuss issues surrounding the park site, including improvement of the arena footing, ongoing maintenance of the arena, lighting of the arena, and permitting equestrian usage of the grass area.

Vice-chair Cerimeli asked if there is the anticipation that there will be more users if the site is lighted. Ms. Weiss said that probably would be correct. The arena is used now primarily in the morning and again when the sun goes down. Vice-chair Cerimeli asked if the parking is adequate. Ms. Weiss said there is no parking except on side streets and there are no plans for the future for parking. Commissioner Cerimeli asked how many flyers went out for the May 5th meeting. Ms. Weiss said 2,000 were mailed to in a mile radius. Vice-chair Cerimeli asked what the location of lights was. Ms. Weiss said there was no design as yet. There could be as few as 4 and as many as 6 poles.

Commissioner Faramelli asked what type of property was located south of the arena. Ms. Weiss said it was an apartment complex.

Commissioner Anderson noted this site is near Cocopah Middle School. She noted that it was indicated at the meeting that there had been incidents involving safety issues. She asked if those were in the basin or on the trail. Ms. Weiss said they were in reference to the trail and multiuse aspect of trail. Neighbors were worried about kids using the trail for walking when riders are using it. Commissioner Anderson asked if the path is signed for equestrian use only. Ms. Weiss said it is a multiuse trail and open to many uses, not just equestrian. There is a paved path that runs just a few feet inside the decomposed granite path but users can use the equestrian trail for walking. Ms. Weiss noted staff is looking at all kinds of signage. Commissioner Anderson asked if the basin is used for anything and might be good to have signage for uses to alert them of the uses in the area. Ms. Weiss said staff can look at the existing signage. Commissioner Anderson noted the two uses are unusual. She was riding at Stonegate and there were people passing softball in one of the arenas. Commissioner Anderson doesn't understand why residents want to ride their horses in the grass, as it is potentially dangerous mixed with other uses. The horses create holes in the grass. She feels the lights would be great.

Commissioner King asked what would bring the most use in the basin. Ms. Weiss said that is hard to speculate. This is a neighborhood park and they are not designed for tremendous amounts of use. There are many families in neighborhood. Ms. Weiss has never seen horses in the basin or anyone playing soccer. There is a City Code and it does not allow equestrian uses in the parks. Commissioner King noted then there is not a lot of activity. Ms. Weiss said that probably is the case. Pick up soccer teams have discovered it and a polo team used it previously. There are no facilities so it is casual use. Commissioner King asked how far it was to the residences and how does that compare to Stonegate and Westworld. Ms. Weiss noted the closest is the apartment to the south. Staff has heard from the

community to the east, and the homes to the west are most affected and are a little bit closer than at Stonegate. Westworld doesn't have any residences near the arena. Commissioner King asked how the proposed lights would compare lights for a parking lot and a ballfield. Ms. Weiss said parking lot lights are much lower, 14 to 16 feet high, with a lower level of light. The lights at the ballfields at Cocopah are 70 to 80 feet high with poor shielding. Newer lights for ballfields are 80 feet high but are shielded much better. Lighting for the equestrian arena would be in between that, similar to volleyball or tennis court light and be a shoebox design. The lights shine down to illuminate the area below it more. Commissioner King feels the lights are a good idea.

Chairperson Loper noted the issues are lighting and the use of the basin. Ms. Weiss said that was correct. Chairperson Loper asked about the \$150,000 and what it would be used for. Ms. Weiss said it is capital improvement funds and is intended for improvements and enhancements to the park. Lighting is expensive and would take most of that money. The funding will be available after July 1, 2005. Chairperson Loper asked if there is a permanent fix to the debris causing the gaps in the drain. Why have we allowed that to move the grate away from drain. Ms. Weiss said the debris will be removed in the next couple of weeks. The debris is a fact of the water flow. Maintenance staff will address the drain in the future during their regular route maintenance. Entry to the drain is necessary for maintenance. Chairperson Loper asked if a permanent fix with a chain or something else can be done. Ms. Weiss said the removal of the debris will eliminate the gap. Chairperson Loper noted he visited the park this afternoon. This is a nugget for the people in the neighborhood and a unknown park that needs to be utilized to its fullest. Since many homes in the area are equestrian properties we ought to do what we can to accommodate them. The homes on the west side seem to be the most affected. He asked what is the zoning for those homes. Ms. Weiss said there is an equestrian overlay in the neighborhood. Chairperson Loper noted he didn't see any trashcans and has concerns about litter. Mr. Murphy and Ms. Weiss both indicated there were trashcans at the site but more can be acquired and staff can get some mutt mitt dispensers. Chairperson Loper noted it was evenly split at the May 5th meeting between those for and against the lights. Chairperson Loper noted the website says the next meeting is at the Via Linda Senior Center on June 15th. Ms. Weiss said that was correct. Chairperson Loper asked if the lights shut off at 10:30 and was there any other consensus at the neighborhood meeting. Ms. Weiss said the neighbors talked about the lights going off at 9 or 9:30 pm and the City has done that where there is neighborhood consensus. Chairperson Loper understands this is a retention basin designed for 100-year flood but we ought to try to take advantage of what few parks we have. Maybe there is a compromise to forgo the lush turf and allow equestrians users to use a portion of the basin. The arena is a small part of the park. We need to try to get ideas on how we might expand the equestrian use of this park. Is we could we fence off a portion of the turf area for use by equestrians it would be a good thing.

Commissioner Faramelli asked if this park is programmed. Ms. Weiss said it is not staffed and we do not typically run programs in neighborhood parks.

Commissioner Ellis asked what would happen if the basin was fenced. Mr. Murphy said there would have to be a separate irrigation system to cycle the water differently and there would be a need for intense horticultural practices for the wear and tear. The other issue is would a fence be allowed in a retention basin. Commissioner Ellis asked if there is the need for a different subsurface under the grass for horses. Mr. Murphy said contamination would be the issue. The type of turf is Bermuda grass and a change in that may be necessary. Commissioner Ellis asked how users would know it was muddy underneath so they could keep from tearing it up. Mr. Murphy said it would be a process of trial and error. The thought is that most users won't jeopardize their horses, but that has not been the case in the use of the Off Leash Area.

Commissioner Anderson said it doesn't feel good to be on horse that is sinking and you can't always see what is under you.

Commissioner Faramelli asked if staff could have someone from flood control at the next meeting. This is a joint flood control issue.

Chairperson Loper said it seems we don't have something scheduled at specific times and he hopes we are taking full advantage of the park from an equestrian and community standpoint. Putting a small arena in the corner in this equestrian-feel community does not serve the community as well as it could be served.

Commissioner King asked if we have to have grass in the retention basin. Ms. Weiss noted the neighborhood requested it to be turfed for dust control reasons. Ms. Murphy said other considerations can be given to increased maintenance. If it was gravel, the gravel wouldn't stay in place when water is in the basin. Grass helps to disperse the water.

Chairperson Loper asked how many times the basin has been flooded. Ms. Weiss said the neighbors can probably address that at the next meeting but in the past few months there has been standing water there on a few occasions.

REPEAL EXISTING BYLAWS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMISSION.

Judy Weiss, Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Murphy, Director of Parks & Grounds Management, presented the proposed Rules and Regulations for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Jay Osborn, Senior Assistant City Attorney, was present to answer legal questions relating to the Rules and Regulations and the adoption process.

The Commission discussed the new Rules and Regulations and determined they need to have the City Code in front of them before approving the final form. The Commission wanted to review the document and make suggestions tonight, but continue the item to another meeting for a work-study, then for approval.

The Commission went through the proposed Rules and Regulations item by item and determined there are questions or concerns about language that need to be researched, changed, and/or resolved and brought back to the Commission.

Section 1.0 all subsections – what is the Commission's authority regarding the acquisition of property; what if a developer gives property to the city, what is the Commission's role; the Commission wants to see the Code with regard to these issues to define their role and the Zoning Ordinances to see what roles are defined for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 3.0; 3.1. e) – Chairperson Loper would like to revisit this section again; there we no suggested changes at this time.

Section 3.0; 3.1. i) – should be moved to **Section 3.3 d)**

Section 4.0; 4.1. – develop language for the frequency of meeting that would allow for cancellations to be done based on need.

Section 4.0; 4.3. – Commission Faramelli would like a legal opinion – when the item is an "Information Item" only, can the Commission hear it even if there is no quorum.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, and William Murphy, Parks and Grounds Management Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks & Recreation and Parks & Grounds Management Divisions. Ms. Weiss updated the Commission on the construction at McDowell Mountain Ranch Park and Aquatic Center and the CAP Basin.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Loper called for any items from the floor or the Commission.

Commissioner Anderson asked how the recycling program was coming at DC Ranch. Mr. Murphy said the contamination levels have been high and even through education it has not improved.

Chairperson Loper asked how the Stadium renovation was coming. Mr. Murphy said the contract will be awarded by the City Council next week.

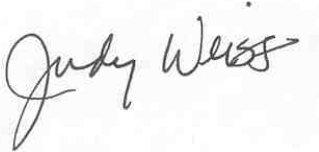
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner King seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

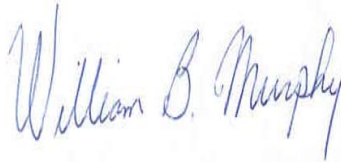
With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Loper adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" being more prominent than the last name "Weiss".

Judy Weiss
Director
Parks & Recreation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William B. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "William" and last name "Murphy" being clearly legible, and "B." as a middle initial.

William B. Murphy
Director
Parks & Grounds Management